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Minutes of Meeting of the Unit Coordinating Group enlarged by members of the Representation, Regional Preparatory Committee, Women's Section and Unit Coordinators held on 19/1/90

Present: Cdes Dan (chair), Rob, Tom, Zola, Joe, Pinde and Charlie. The Chief Representative is away.

Agenda: Attached

Item 1: The chairman opened the meeting by referring to the renewed interest in the region in participating in the political life of the movement. This could be partly attributed to the efforts of the UCG and the representation, but was also a result of developments at home. It was necessary to harness this energy in the best possible way according to our capacities. Present at the meeting were representatives of all the leadership structures in the region - the UCG, office, RPC, unit convenors and women's section. The idea was to review as a collective leadership how best to proceed. The meeting endorsed the idea of holding a broad or extended meeting and recommended it as a possible formula for the future.

Item 2: The secretary of the UCG reported on the current state of unit organisation. He traced the evolution from the pre-Nkomati situation where there were units operating under a properly constituted Regional Political Committee, through the period when there was no unit activity to the present situation in which we now had 3 reasonably functional units. The UCG was originally conceived of as something of a halfway house between a fully functioning RFC and the situation in which every activity was channeled through the office. The UCG initially concerned itself only with unit organisation and programmes. It did not take on other tasks carried out by RPCs like organising functions or attending to members' problems. These functions were assumed by the office. More recently, however, due to the severe understaffing of the office and other reasons, the UCG had begun to assume some of these roles of an RPC, assisting the Chief Representative. The UCG was initially elected, but only one of its current members had been elected. The majority now were coopted.

During discussion of the secretary's report, attendance problems in unit C were discussed. The convenor expressed the view that cdes were keen to attend and said that practical difficulties like how to contact members were the main problem. The meeting offered certain suggestions about how to overcome some of these. Unit B also indicated that on investigating a case of non-attendance, it had discovered that the person concerned was neither a member nor wanted to become one. She was merely the daughter of a member. The meeting agreed that the unit was correct in its decision to inform that person that she should not attend and recommended that the lists of unit members be scrutinised again as it is possible that there are similar cases.

Item 3: After discussion the meeting agreed unanimously to recommend the establishment of an RPC in this region. This, however, needs to be referred first to security. If they have no objection a general meeting should be called where the proposal will be discussed by the membership. The meeting was of the view that any new RPC must be representative of all sections in the region. This means that moribund sections, like youth and pioneers, should be revived. It was agreed that the understaffing of the office highlights the need for an RPC with more authority than the U06. It was also agreed that we should challenge some of the unwritten restrictions imposed on us in this region in recent years, using the precedents of developments at home and the results of the recent high level meeting.

Item 4: Falls away.

Item 5: The Regional Preparatory Committee will circulate the document on the cultural and academic boycott and recommends that units deal with it in the same way as the document on negotiations i.e. prepare comments for transmission to HG.

Item 6: A08

1. On Matola day, repairs on the graves should be ready. An invitation will be sent to Frelimo to participate in a ceremony at the graveyard.

/S fgm FM

ii. On Friendship day, the meeting recommends that the office send a letter to H0 calling for support in arranging a high level speaker - one of the recently released leaders, cde Albertina Sisulu or an NEC member. It will also be necessary to contact AMASP fairly soon.

iii. Cde Zola has taken the initiative and organised a cultural group. All units should be informed that the group meets at internal on Mondays at 5.30 pm.

iv. Cde Dan reported on the abortive efforts made by members of the ex-Regional Youth Committee to revive the youth. Cde Joe will assist in an attempt to convene a meeting of youth.

v. A telex received from London about forming a Nelson Mandela Reception Committee has been passed on to AMASP. When the Chief Representative returns it will be necessary to follow the matter up with AMASP. The meeting felt it was essential to stress that this would be a joint AMASP-ANC activity and agreed with the proposal that our members on the committee, in addition to the Chief Representative, be elected by the membership. They should be willing to devote considerable effort to the task.

It was emphasised that until such time as a new body is formed in the region, the UCG will continue with its normal business. The next UCG meeting will be held at a time to be announced by the convenor.

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3) HEALYSIS er THE NEED FOR A REGIUNRL POLITICAL COMMITTEE Tn BE  
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4) DISCUSSION ON THE NEED FUR ELECTIONS TOR "EU UCG CFFICE BEARERS  
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